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ABSTRACT

Focusing on efforts by community colleges to serve an increasingly diverse student population, this book provides case studies illustrating colleges' attempts to provide transfer, vocational, and community education while meeting the demands of students who vary by race, class, gender, and age. Following a brief introduction, the first chapter outlines theories related to critical multiculturalism, border knowledge, and the politics of identity, providing the framework for the remaining chapters. Chapter 2 focuses on the multiple roles of community colleges, describes the relationship of these roles to multicultural issues, and reviews the methodology used in the case studies which provided data for the book. Chapter 3 presents a case study of a vocationally-oriented community college, examining the effect of the organizational culture on students' self identification as primarily workers. Chapter 4 provides an example of diversity treated in a more celebratory manner than usual, highlighting an urban college's immigrant education program for Spanish-speaking students. Chapter 5 discusses issues of community responsiveness by examining a community college high school developed to serve primarily urban African-American students. Chapter 6 explores issues related to cultural capital and border knowledge based on results from a case study of a community college emphasizing remedial education, while chapter 7 provides a case study of a diverse urban college to examine the effect of the organization's multiple roles on the development of critically aware students. Finally, chapter 8 offers a comprehensive analysis of the findings from the five case studies. Contains 187 references. (MAB)